

REMARKS

The Official Action of October 19, 2004, and the prior art relied upon therein have been carefully reviewed. The claims in the application are now claims 2-6 and 10-16, and these claims all define patentable subject matter consistent with what is stated in the official action, whereby the present application should now be in condition for formal allowance. Thus, the applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration and early formal allowance.

Acknowledgement by the PTO of the receipt of applicant's papers filed under Section 119 is noted.

Claims 2-6 have not been rejected on the basis of any prior art, or indeed on any basis at all; and paragraph 1 of the Office Action at the top of page 2 indicates that these claims are only objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but are otherwise "allowable...." Applicant accordingly understands that these claims are deemed by the PTO to define novel and unobvious subject matter under §§102 and 103, and to meet all formal requirements including those of §112.

Claims 2-6 have now all been rewritten in independent form, and therefore should now be in condition for formal allowance. New claims 10-12 are in the form of original claim 6 and depend respectively from claims 2, 3 and 5, and therefore

also should be patentable. Similarly, new claims 13-16 are in the form of original claim 4 and depend respectively on claims 2 and 10-12, and these claims also should be in condition for formal allowance.

Claim 1 has been rejected as anticipated under §102(e) by Fukasawa 2002/0030445. Claim 1 has now been deleted without prejudice to applicant's rights, including those rights provided by §§120 and 119, to pursue claim 1 and/or similar subject matter in a continuing application, if applicant chooses to do so. However, as claim 1 has now been deleted from the present application, this rejection need not be addressed at the present time.

Applicant believes that all issues have been addressed and resolved above, whereby the present application should be in condition for formal allowance. Such is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BROWDY AND NEIMARK, P.L.L.C.
Attorneys for Applicant(s)

By



Sheridan Neimark

Registration No. 20,520

SN:jaa
Telephone No.: (202) 628-5197
Facsimile No.: (202) 737-3528
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